

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Stephen Ross Hope

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FOR: Abrasive Holder

GROUP ART UNIT: 3723

EXAMINER: Muller, Bryan R.

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AMENDMENT/RESPONSE

May 11, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in accordance with the Revised Amendment Format under the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as issued by the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy on 1/31/03.

In response to the Office Action dated 03/02/2006, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with above-identified application:

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

No changes to the drawings.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

No changes to the specification.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

(1) Please amend claims 1, 7, and 8.

(2) Please cancel claims 2-6 and 9-33 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

(3) Please add new claims 34-61.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An abrasive tool comprising:

a base portion, ~~and~~ having a substantially planar surface;

a handle attached to said base portion;

a foam layer permanently bonded to said base portion; and

~~a plastics film layer on said base portion adapted to receive an abrasive material~~
layer permanently bonded to said foam layer and adapted to removably
receive an adhesively backed sandpaper.

Claims 2-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently amended): ~~[[An]]The~~ abrasive tool as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said foam layer is formed from a material selected
from the consisting of ethyl vinyl acetate foam or polyethylene foam or and
polypropylene foam.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): ~~[[An]]The~~ abrasive tool as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said plastics film layer is formed from ethyl vinyl
acetate film ~~or polyethylene film or polypropylene film.~~

Claims 9-33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (New): An abrasive tool for sanding planar or curved surfaces, said
abrasive tool comprising:

a handle portion;

a flexible base portion removably attachable to said handle portion about a
central pivot line;

a foam layer attachable to said flexible base portion;

a plastic film layer attachable to said foam layer;

at least one adjustment means passing through an end of said handle portion
and attachable to an end of said flexible base portion for adjustably fixing
the curvature of said flexible base portion; and

a socket pivotably connected to said respective end of said flexible base portion, said socket adapted to receive said adjustment means and pivotably connect said adjustment means to said respective end of said flexible base portion.

Claim 35 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 34 further comprising an abrasive material layer attachable to said plastic film layer.

Claim 36 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 35, wherein said abrasive layer comprises abrasive material fixed to a backing layer, said backing layer being attachable to said plastic film layer.

Claim 37 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 36, wherein said backing layer of said abrasive layer is provided with an adhesive to removably attach said backing layer to said plastic film layer.

Claim 38 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 37, wherein said adhesive is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 39 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 34, wherein said foam layer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl vinyl acetate foam, polyethylene foam, and polypropylene.

Claim 40 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 34, wherein said plastic film layer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl vinyl acetate film, polyethylene film, and polypropylene.

Claim 41 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 40, wherein said plastic film layer is applied to said foam layer by laminating during formation of said foam layer.

Claim 42 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 34 further comprising a second adjustment means and a second socket, said second adjustment means passing through an end of said handle portion opposite of said adjustment means, said second socket being pivotably connected to an end opposite of said flexible base portion opposite of said socket, said second socket being adapted to receive said second adjustment means.

Claim 43 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 42, wherein said adjustment means and said second adjustment means are screw members, said screw members passing through their respective ends of said handle portion.

Claim 44 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 43, further comprising a rod fixed within each end of said flexible base portion substantially across the entire width of said flexible base portion.

Claim 45 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 44, wherein each of said sockets are pivotable about their said respective rods fixed within their respective ends of said flexible base portion.

Claim 46 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 34, wherein said flexible base portion is removably attached to said handle portion by a tongue-in-groove configuration located on said central pivot line.

Claim 47 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 34, wherein said flexible base portion is removably attached to said handle portion by a key in slot configuration located on said central pivot line.

Claim 48 (New): An abrasive tool comprising:

a handle portion having an arcuate configuration;

a flexible base portion removably attachable to said handle portion about a central pivot line;

a foam layer attachable to said flexible base portion;

a plastic film layer attachable to said foam layer;

at least two screw members each of which attachable to an end said handle portion and to a corresponding end of said flexible base portion for adjustably fixing the curvature of said flexible base portion, said screw members pass through their respective ends of said handle portion;

at least two sockets each of which pivotably connected to an end of said flexible base portion, each of said sockets being adapted to receive said screw members and pivotably connect said screw members to their respective ends of said flexible base portion; and

a rod fixed within each end of said flexible base portion substantially across the entire width of said flexible base portion;

wherein each said socket is pivotable about said rod fixed within an end of said flexible base portion.

Claim 49 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 48 further comprising an abrasive material layer attachable to said plastic film layer.

Claim 50 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 49, wherein said abrasive layer comprises abrasive material fixed to a backing layer, said backing layer being attachable to said plastic film layer.

Claim 51 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 50, wherein said backing layer of said abrasive layer is provided with an adhesive to removably attach said backing layer to said plastic film layer.

Claim 52 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 51, wherein said adhesive is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 53 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 49, wherein said foam layer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl vinyl acetate foam, polyethylene foam, and polypropylene.

Claim 54 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 49, wherein said plastic film layer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl vinyl acetate film, polyethylene film, and polypropylene.

Claim 55 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 54, wherein said plastic film layer is applied to said foam layer by laminating during formation of said foam layer.

Claim 56 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 49, wherein said flexible base portion is removably attached to said handle portion by a tongue-in-groove configuration located on said central pivot line.

Claim 57 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 49, wherein said flexible base portion is removably attached to said handle portion by a key in slot configuration located on said central pivot line.

Claim 58 (New): An abrasive tool comprising:
a handle portion having an arcuate configuration;
a flexible base portion removably attachable to said handle portion about a central pivot line by a connection configuration selected from the group consisting of a tongue-in-groove configuration, and a key in slot configuration;
a foam layer attachable to said flexible base portion;

a plastic film layer attachable to said foam layer;
an abrasive material layer having an abrasive material fixed to a backing layer,
said backing layer having a pressure sensitive adhesive provided thereon,
said backing layer being removably attachable to said plastic film layer;
at least two screw members each of which attachable to an end said handle
portion and to a corresponding end of said flexible base portion for
adjustably fixing the curvature of said flexible base portion, said screw
members pass through their respective ends of said handle portion;
at least two sockets each of which pivotably connected to an end of said flexible
base portion, each of said sockets being adapted to receive said screw
members and pivotably connect said screw members to their respective
ends of said flexible base portion; and
a rod fixed within each end of said flexible base portion substantially across the
entire width of said flexible base portion;
wherein each said socket is pivotable about said rod fixed within an end of said
flexible base portion.

Claim 59 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 58, wherein said foam layer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl vinyl acetate foam, polyethylene foam, and polypropylene.

Claim 60 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 58, wherein said plastic film layer is selected from the group consisting of ethyl vinyl acetate film, polyethylene film, and polypropylene.

Claim 61 (New): The abrasive tool as set forth in claim 60, wherein said plastic film layer is applied to said foam layer by laminating during formation of said foam layer.